agricultural produce from farmers to keep it as security for the loan funds extended to farmers; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken to promote such mobile rural banks for farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir. There has been no such proposal at present, under consideration of the Government of India.

(b) Does not arise.

**Assistance to Co-operatives of Weaker Sections in H.P. and Gujarat**

919. SHRI ANIL SHARMA:
SHRI AHMED PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Centrally sponsored scheme of assistance to co-operatives of weaker sections, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, especially in far-flung areas of Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat, if so, the salient features thereof;

(b) what are the criteria for allocating funds under each scheme in those States;

(c) what are the details of funds released and utilized during the last five years; and

(d) the present status of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes Sir, this Department was implementing a Centrally sponsored scheme for assistance to weaker section cooperative societies in the country, including Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat as well upto 1999-2000.

From October 2000, the scheme has been transferred to Macro Management Mode.

Under the present system this Deptt. provides financial

assistance to the State as per their work plans within the budget allocation.

(b) Under the scheme assistance is provided in the shape of working capital loan, share capital loan and managerial subsidy in the ratio of 40:40:20. The minimum and maximum assistance under the scheme ranges from Rs. 1.00 lakh to Rs. 5.00 lakh. The scheme is open to all eligible cooperative societies. There is no statewise allocation. The proposals are received from the state governments, and funds are released as per the proposals.

(c) The details of funds released as per the proposals received under the scheme for the last five years to the State of Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat are as under:—

| Year | H.P. | Gujarat |
|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | Nil | 8,90,000 |
| 1998-99 | Nil | Nil |
| 1999-2000 | Nil | 2,27,000 |
| 2000-2001 | Nil | Nil |
| 2001-2002 | Nil | Nil |
| | | 11,17,000 |

(d) The above scheme, alongwith some other schemes of the Department has been subsumed under the New Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Macro-Management Mode of the Department wherein financial assistance is provided to the State Governments on their work plans prepared by the State Governments. Under this new scheme the State Governments have flexibility to prioritise the interventions. The independent Central Sector Scheme for assistance to Weaker Cooperative Societies has ceased to exist as such. It is now left to the states to include or not to include the scheme in their work plan.